

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. This is not news - but rather election campaigning and a pro-Kerry program should be given the same air-time. It is also disappointing that the stations are being forced to run this program - even if they would have made a local decision not to run the program.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Even though there is not a Sinclair station in my immediate viewing area, Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. I was very disappointed when the rules were changed to allow large companies to own more outlets in the same market area. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.